

Read

Wheat Prices, Freight Rates and Oats

By Jas. Weir  
M.L.A.  
Page 8.

# THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN



VOL. 3



CALGARY, JAN. 15, 1919

One Dollar per year

No. 2

## TO WHOM COMETH THE BLESSING

Not to the man of dollars,  
Not to the man of deeds,  
Not to the man of cunning,  
Not to the man of creeds,  
Not to one whose passion  
Is for the world's renown,  
Not in the form of fashion,  
Cometh a blessing down.

Not to the folly blinded,  
Not to the steeped in shame,  
Not to the carnal-minded,  
Not to unholly fame,  
Not to neglect of duty,  
Not in the monarch's crown,  
Not at the smile of beauty,  
Cometh a blessing down.

But to the one whose spirit  
Yearns for the great and good,  
Unto the one whose storehouse  
Yieldeth the hungry food.  
Unto the one whose labors,  
Fearless of foe or frown,  
Unto the kindly hearted  
Cometh the blessing down.

## TOPICS IN BRIEF

The Kaiser had over 500 uniforms,  
most of which he took with him.  
\* \* \*

All dressed up with nowhere to go.  
\* \* \*

If the Bolsheviks gained control in  
Germany would the Calgary Herald think  
it sufficient punishment?  
\* \* \*

Moses had ten commandments —  
President Wilson fourteen.  
\* \* \*

The crop that never fails and cannot  
fail so long as the common people do not  
assert their political power is the million-  
aire crop.  
\* \* \*

It's a crop that can't be raised and have  
much for ourselves at the same time!  
\* \* \*

How, and when, will the Farmers'  
Platform be enacted into law?  
\* \* \*

When down in the mouth think of Jonah  
— he came out all right.  
\* \* \*

## IT'S THE SAME "OVER THERE"

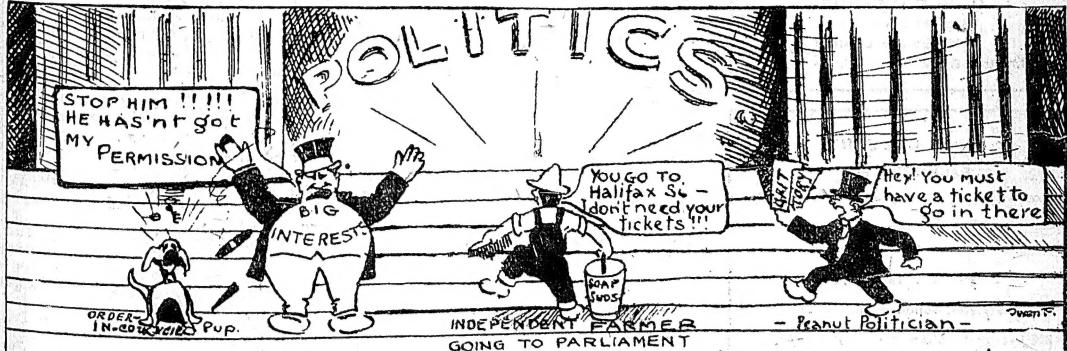
The Grange Farmers (in the States) at  
their national convention at Syracuse,  
N.Y., adopted a new programme which  
included a plank for political representation  
of farmers in order to obtain better con-  
ditions of livelihood. It asserts "that  
agriculture shall be fully represented on  
all legislative bodies."

Farmers everywhere are realizing that  
they can get better conditions and general  
improvement of their occupation only  
by political means. No class of people  
have tried harder to succeed by the old  
formula than the farmers, and their  
years of poorly paid toil show that they  
must turn to the same methods by which  
the privileged few have been able to  
secure their enormous profits and pile  
up their vast wealth.  
\* \* \*

"Will Workman" says "The Labor  
Convention" was great. Page 4.  
\* \* \*

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## THE DEAD HAND

The recent visit of Hon. T. A. Crerar to Calgary has not done much to strengthen the faith of his friends in the leader of the Farmers' Cause throughout the West. Mr. Crerar is perhaps the strangest combination ever seen in Canadian political life. No one would question his sincere desire to see the farmer placed in a stronger position so far as economic justice is concerned and yet it is open to question if there is living in the Dominion of Canada a single human soul who has missed so great an opportunity to do the farmers' cause a real service. There is no exaggeration in that statement—it is a matter of absolute fact.

The Grain Growers' Movement had its genesis in economic oppression. The Union Government was founded on the desire to perpetuate oppression. It owes its existence to a moral lapse of the most disgraceful kind known as the War Times Election Act. The farmers were organized to secure justice—the Government formed to satiate to the full the rapacious appetites of men who had fattened on the very existence of the agricultural classes. Evidence of this fact is found in the papers almost daily. Manufacturers—shielded and protected by a government of which Mr. Crerar is member are trebling their pre-war profits and openly publishing the statements of these phenomenal successes in the daily papers, and the press silenced by the pap of government and manufacturer sits silent or applauds.

Mr. Crerar came to Calgary not as a representative of that Government but as the official head of a corporation which sheds millions as ducks shed rain. He boasts that the corporation owned by farmers is as big and prosperous as any of them, thus showing how the lion and the lamb can dwell together in peace and amity. How long will it be under such conditions before the edge drops from the farmers' argument and he accepts with meekness the dish that is set before him.

For the entry of sense into that Cabinet there was justification—for Mr. Crerar's existence in it there is no shadow of an excuse. Foster is there because he is an old cynic who believes that politics owes him a living with triple expense accounts. Rowell may enter in because he represents the strong anti-pope outfit of Ontario who profit from religion and hope to keep religious prejudices alive for dividends' sake. Meighen could justify his existence in any corner of the universe. He is a trained legal hair-splitter—a master of evasive sophistry and chimerical casuistry. Meighen could defend Judas, or bring a charge against John with equal equanimity. He is in his right place. Sifton belongs to that government because he is Sifton—cold—calculating and cautious—determined that no matter how the ice breaks he will be found floating on the biggest chunk. Sir Thomas White is there holding the brief for those who put the flesh on his bones. And Mr. Crerar's presence is desired for camouflage—he serves to shield the wolves.

Years ago when the present writer was defending the farmers' cause in the East, a very wise and shrewd old business man of the possessing class said to him: "We'll get the farmers sometime—they are going into business now, they will soon be on our side." That is the tragedy of it—a shifting of ideals, a scramble for money instead of a fight for justice. How often is Democracy poisoned and how frequently the drought is handed to her in the house of her friends.

—L. E. Carp.

## Why Co-operators Entered Politics

A reader of the N.P. favored us with a copy of the Co-operative News, the journal of associated industry in Britain. It is very unlike the old Co-operative News we used to read which was against direct political action. Now it is full of politics.

## Ten Candidates Run

The co-operators financed and ran ten candidates at the recent election and in explaining why the co-operative movement entered into politics, the National Co-operative manifesto admitted that there had been in years gone by a strong feeling against the co-operative movement entering politics and being directly represented in Parliament. This feeling had been encouraged and helped by the vested interests which were represented in Parliament.

## Injustices Suffered

The renewed demands for the taxation of co-operative dividends, the imposition of the excess profits duty, and the persistent refusal to allow co-operators to be represented on committees set up by the Government were only a few of the injustices from which the co-operators suffered. At the outbreak of the war the movement offered its whole resources and organization to the Government with a view to eliminating intermediate agencies and preventing profiteering in the food of the people. The offer was rejected.

## A Practical Policy

The manifesto goes on to show that the Co-operative Party, by combining the interests of the producer and the consumer in industry, and abolishing intermediate agencies; and by its ownership of vast fields of production, factories, and machinery for the economical distribution of food, has a practical and constructive policy, and has the experience which will enable it to apply co-operative principles to the grave questions now confronting the nation; and by securing to the workers a better share of the wealth their labor creates, the co-operative movement has proved of valuable service in promoting industrial peace.

## Programme

The Co-operators demand from the Government—

That the care of those broken or maimed by the war, their dependents, and the welfare of the dependents of those who have laid down their lives shall be the first duty of the State.

A definite and practical policy of reconstruction; the organization of war workers for the purpose of peace; the redemption of the pledges given to organized labor at the out-break of the war.

The immediate restoration of the freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and other civil liberties.

Legislation for the abolition of profiteering and the development of voluntary co-operation; and resistance to legislative or administrative inequality which will hinder co-operative progress.

Free Trade and the abolition of taxes upon food.

Adequate housing for the people, financed by the National Exchequer, compulsorily provided on lines which will secure healthy, decent and suitable accommodation for the whole community.

A Ministry of Health, with adequate provision by the State for the care of maternity.

The recasting of the educational system on national lines; equal opportunity of the

highest education to all, unhampered by the caste system now prevailing, which limits the resources of the State and hinders the democratization of the State services, militant, diplomatic, civil, and commercial.

Increased death duties, increased taxation on unearned income; State ownership and control of the railways, mines, and shipping; and the establishment of credit banks in connection with a national system of banking, all of these to meet the financial obligations of the nation.

Effective Parliamentary control of foreign policy and national services by committees composed of all parties in the House of Commons.

An Alliance of all the peoples; and a League of Nations as a guarantee of the world's peace.

#### Programme Vital to Welfare of People

This programme vitally affects the future welfare of the people. The co-operative political movement did not seek to have in its keeping the political conscience of any man, yet it urged the safest course for them was to understand and stand by their own principles. They wanted:-

To abolish profiteering.

To have Full Work and Full Wages for all.

Improved National Education for all. The Land for the People.

Co-operative Organization of the Nation's Resources for the Benefit of the Workers.

The Abolition of the Idler

#### How to Get It.

How was it possible to get that programme from a Coalition of shipowners, brewers, peers, landlords, lawyers, commercial magnates, middlemen, railway directors, bankers, financiers, aristocrats, industrial millionaires, soapmakers, armament makers, and in-the-game-for-what-they-can-get-out-of-it politicians?

The whole thing is a roaring farce, and will shortly be proved to be so. It was folly to expect the present owners of the national resources to tamely hand them over. They would fight to the last ditch against it! It was not the Reconstruction-After-the-War ideal of these gentlemen. But—"No question is ever settled until it is settled right."

—JOHN PHAROS

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## What Is Politics?

By D. F. Boissevain, Strathmore.

“Says It is the Science of Government and not a Contest for Power.”

In his much discussed letter of last Dec. 4th, Mr. S. S. Dunham urges farmers not to take their organization into politics, for says he, “In the U. F. A. we must handle great questions and problems with imports far deeper than mere questions of politics.”

To know first what is meant, when the word “Politics” is used, I looked up the dictionary and found it had two definitions, thus: “The Science of Government” and “The Contest between two parties for Power.”

So James Weir to the contrary notwithstanding, S. S. D. is right as a trivet when he uses the word in its second definition. But, if he means that the farmers have “greater questions and problems of more import” than can be settled by the practical applications of the “Science of Government,” Jim Weir has him beaten to a standstill.

The farmers of Manitoulin have proved what they realize about it back east; while out west, Mrs. Louise C. McKinney and Jim Weir, are demonstrating to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear, that in our legislative assembly they are in perfect harmony with S. S. Dunham's advice, and by keeping aloof “from the contest between two parties for power” are even there advancing “the science of government” which so far has been a subject religiously avoided by any kind of old party politicians. In proving that actually the study of “the science of government” can cause the cessation of the loss of life which has been occasioned through the contest of “two parties for power,” then, I claim to have made my case clear.

First then, I hold that the insane isolation of our rural population, equally with the criminal crowding of our cities is due to the speculation in real estate; and that both conditions are brought about by legislation favoring specially privileged persons, who by reason of such privileges can influence and assist certain parties to power; and who without such aid would not have obtained it.

The C.P.R. was given the ownership of lands for twenty miles on either side of the track in practically alternate sections, with selections of better agricultural lands at greater distances from the track in lieu of swamps or other worthless lands. Thus when I settled on a homestead near Moose Mountains, Sask., in 1884, I found this condition of ruthless isolation 40 miles from the railroad track.

What such criminal isolation leads to is best demonstrated when three years ago it was given in statistics that over Five

Hundred Babies died annually for want of care in Sask alone. Picture this condition of affairs and figure how many mothers lost their lives as well, or had their health and strength ruined for good. It is a fact far beyond the power of contradiction, that this murder of the innocents, this ruination of the home, this dishonoring of our fatherhood and motherhood, goes on in all our provinces and is the direct result of the gift of the heritage of our people to the soulless railroad corporation in exchange for its political influence.

Will our boys—the flower of our manhood—have suffered and died in vain in Flanders fields to stop the Hun from the slaughter of the defenceless and the desecration and desolation of all that is dearest to us on earth, because we stand idly by, and allow the unspeakable Kaiser to be outdone by the profiteers in land, simply because the methods are so refined that they cause neither bloodshed nor spectacular savagery?

Only by truly scientific government can we change these conditions, and labor will be right with us for statistics also prove, clear as the midday sun, that the percentage of infant mortality increases rapidly as the rate of wages declines. We must change our economic conditions, our industrial organizations, our tenure of lands, the ownership of the means of communication transportation and distribution.

Out of the disorder and chaos wrought decades of profiteering and infamous political and other scandals, we must build up a social and economic structure of method, founded on justice and truth through study of the “science of government.” It is a stupendous task but who says “can't” with the example of Langemarck, St. Julien and Vimy Ridge before us. What task was too great for the boys, and for the women who were healing their wounds and soothing their fevered brow to the sound of warring cannon and bursting shell?

“I speak for those who have no privileges,” said president Wilson in his immortal speech on the conditions of a world peace to be founded on justice. It is you and I, my farmer friends, who are working for the same people when we come together to apply “the science of government” through the Non-Partisan League to our distorted social environment.

Thank God our methods are peaceful and as surely as the application of science to agriculture has revolutionized that industry since I was a boy, doing good only, so shall we apply the science of government in constructive sense only, making our homes beautiful, our lives free from useless care and toil, and Canada free, glorious and prosperous, safe in the democracy our boys died to establish.

—DANIEL F. BOISSEVAIN

\* \* \*

Read “Women on the Prairie” page 12

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## The Alberta Non Partisan

### Alberta Convention of Labor

By Will Workman

#### Convention showed great advance in Thought by the Workers.

The art of condensing much and varied matter into small compass without at the same time destroying its sense is generally considered to be a sign of genius, and he would be some genius that could adequately convey the impressions made by this Convention into two columns. Perhaps the impression that leaves its deepest indent on one's consciousness is the thought that over one hundred men of different nationalities, diverse occupations, and whose environment and training should have had the effect, looking at it from the surface, of creating different avenues of thought could agree on any line of action, yet it was very clear throughout the discussions that on fundamentals and on ultimate aims there was no dissension only on methods of accomplishment.

In this respect the Convention just closed at Medicine Hat shows a marked advance over any of its predecessors and clearly proves, that what is termed class-consciousness is making new converts at a very rapid rate. When the insular, foreigner-despising sons of John Bull, who formed perhaps the major part of the convention are prepared to stand on common ground with natives of Sunny Italy, Russia and Servia, the doom of narrow souled patriotism is sealed and the larger, more inspiring dream of Internationalism has a place in the arena.

The next was the firm stand taken on the question of Industrial Unionism. If the spirit shown on this is any indication of what is being thought and done in other parts the old craft unions can begin to make their funeral arrangements. With one or two exceptions craft unions as they exist to-day had neither defenders nor apologists, the aristocratic typographer, the respectable railroader, and member of building trades were one with the miner in supporting the claims of Industrial Unionism and showing the futility of hoping much from the narrow sectionalism of craft organizations. The old, old cry, "Workers of the World Unite" would seem to be no longer a pious exhortant, but a direct demand. Whatever craft unions have done, the unanimous feeling was that they contained no star of hope for the future and that no offence would be committed by supplanting them.

In point of significance the fact that this Convention went on record in favor of the Socialization of Industry and all processes that go into making life real should have ranked first. When Trades Unionist, Industrialist and Extremist are agreed that the Capitalist system is from the ground up wrong, there must be grounds for that belief, and there was no mistaking the conviction that society as organised to-day was fundamentally opposed to human progress and to that democracy that had been fought for on Flanders Fields. The desire to relieve suffering to right the wrongs wherever or whatever their nature was also strikingly apparent. This amounted in some instances to almost a religious fervor.

It was strikingly manifest in the many discussions that centred around the subject of Allied Intervention in Russia. The concensus of opinion was in no doubt as to the motive inspiring this intervention, it was felt by one and all that in view of the stated war aims of the Allies, in view of the loftiness of view as expressed by

Pres. Wilson, Sir Edward Grey and others, that to intervene in Russia was a travesty of the stated aims, mere sophistry or eye-wash.

In the demand for the release of Conscientious objectors a determined note was struck and if the attitude taken is an index to what is felt throughout the ranks the failure of the Government to act will undoubtedly spell trouble. The subject of restrictions and censorship of the press also awoke a unanimous response and once again from Red, Ultra Red and Moderate came the impression that the sacred cause of Freedom, freedom of expression, whether by tongue or pen was not to be further encroached on and whatever the necessities of war imposed, there was no longer the slightest excuse for such autocratic enactments.

Coming down to purely Provincial matters much useful work was done. The demand for a better and more rigid enforcement of the laws governing sanitation, housing and general health matters, proved the knowledge and consciousness that if life is to be something more than existence, these things must be attended to and that it is the business of the state to attend to them. The prevention of sickness and disease rather than its cure was generally conceded should be the aim of the State and the Nationalization of the Medical Profession would be the first step in that direction. The bringing in of such prosaic measures as the Mines Act, The Mechanics Lien Act, and The Compensation Act along with a bill to look after the Mothers of the Race, showed the broad intelligent view of the duties of citizenship held by both officers and rank and file of the Convention. Nor were these things slurred over; in many cases a very detailed interest was shown and it was quite evident that a goodly number of the delegates had more than a passing knowledge of what was required.

By refusing to endorse the request for stronger beer the Alberta Federation of Labor placed itself in line with progressive thought and to a life abstainer it was gratifying to hear and to note that no longer does the worker think in terms of beer and tobacco, and that although there are many causes contributing to his distress, alcohol is one of them and it must go. In this connection another epoch was reached when delegations from the Ministerial Association, The Social Service, and Women's Christian Temperance Union appeared to thank the Convention for its attitude. Truly it may be said that the grey dawn now breaking is full of promise. In its concurrence without a dissenting voice with a motion submitted to alter the treatment of those unfortunate women who sell their bodies, the Convention again proved that good living in a moral as well as a physical sense is desired.

The reconstruction policy advocated was on the lines of the British Labor Party. Again there was complete agreement as to the necessity for eliminating patchwork, the Convention had no use for any scheme as submitted by Manufacturers' Associations and the like, no palliatives, no bolstering up, but reconstruction. Space forbids me to go into details on all subjects dealt with, but one and all they were on sound progressive lines.

In endorsing the Reconstruction Policy the Convention went on record as favoring the formation of a workers party. The vote on this was by no means unanimous yet a fairly general feeling existed that if we are to carry out the policies of the Federation we shall have to be represented in the hall of legislation. The feeling that a crisis was impending was clearly noted

throughout the whole Convention, in this there was a noticeable oneness.

Throughout the proceedings there also was a broadminded tolerance between the different factions that again showed advance on former years. Undoubtedly "The Day" is being brought appreciably nearer by such Conventions as these. In the opinion of all shades of opinions, and I consulted all shades as to its truth, the Convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor just closed will compare favorably with any Convention held either in Canada or the United States.

\* \* \* WILL WORKMAN  
A NEW PARTY

At the close of the Convention held at Medicine Hat a meeting was held to make arrangements for the formation of a Political Party. It was arranged that a conference be held in Calgary at a later date and that all kindred bodies such as U.F.A., Non-Partisan and Great War Veterans be invited to send representatives.

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*There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings.* —Ruskin.

**THE ALBERTA LABOR CONFERENCE** The conference of the Alberta Federation of Labor recently held at

Medicine Hat has been one of the most important in the history of the Labor movement of this Province. The questions of world importance that are waiting for solution have had an undoubted influence on the deliberations of this body, and have served somewhat as a spur to drive the conference to definite conclusions and actions.

One of the noteworthy incidents in connection with the conference at Medicine Hat was the prominence of the "Impossibilist" group led by Mr. Jos. Knights, of Edmonton. This section was true to type in its opposition to every sane policy along the lines of evolutionary process. The "All Red" socialists of Alberta, like those of every other country, are the products of capitalist society, and suffer from a kind of mental derangement which merits public sympathy but not public support. We classify the socialist movement in its strictly orthodox form under this heading because while it wants what every sane person desires, yet it says, "If anyone attempts to help get what we want, such an one is a traitor." The Alberta Federation of Labor decided, however, to help the Socialists to get what they want in spite of the protest on the part of the Socialists. The Federation went on record as favoring political action on the part of organized labor as a means of working toward the expressed aims of Socialism—namely the securing by the workers of the means of wealth production and distribution. This step has been forced by conditions, and hence the very outcome of the Socialist philosophy. This seems to be the only means why the Socialist faction opposed it.

The decision of Organized Labor in Alberta to take political action is significant and indicates a change in the policy of Labor in its efforts to

secure its aims. After years of industrial organization and effort this body has come to the conclusion that political action is essential to ultimate success, and thus labor enters the political field to make a bid for power as a means toward the expressed aims of industrial organizations. This we believe is the logical step, and if the organized farmers, who meet in Edmonton next week take similar action, and co-operate with labor in this regard, a new day will have dawned for Canada.

\* \* \*

**WHAT WILL THE U.F.A. DO?** The U.F.A. Convention is being held in Edmonton next week. Thousands of people, not only in Alberta, but throughout the Dominion, have their eyes on this convention, and are waiting with interest to see what steps, if any, the U.F.A. is going to take in respect to the great issues which confront the people of Canada at this time. But the question of keenest interest is that of political action. Will the U.F.A. continue its "watchful waiting" or will it decide on a new policy of action?

There are undoubtedly two factions in the U.F.A., composed of those who do and those who do not believe in the farmers organizing to obtain political power. While we believe, with the leaders of the U.F.A., that as an industrial organization the U.F.A. would invite disaster to take up politics officially, yet we see that it will be in as great danger of disruption if it avoids the political issue. Sooner or later it must take a stand; it cannot much longer continue to straddle the fence of political influence; it must give some direction to those within its ranks who see the need of political action, or be torn asunder by factions as powerful to disturb and destroy as the old parties would be, were the U.F.A. to decide to enter politics.

\* \* \*

**THE LOGICAL COURSE** The U.F.A. will not for long be able to dodge the dilemma in which the ever growing demand for political organization is gradually placing it. But if the convention will open its eyes it will see the clear course to take, and will unhesitatingly take that course. The U.F.A. will see, first of all, if it looks, the program of desired legislation which its representatives have drawn up; it will know that, to draw up a program of legislation is not sufficient effort to obtain such legislation. It will also see that the leaders of the organized farmers have admitted in connection with the said

program, that the legislation therein desired is necessary, and that the old parties have consistently refused to give such legislation; and it will see that a political organization has actually come among the farmers in response to the U.F.A. demands for legislation, and that that organization is the Non-Partisan League.

The course of the U.F.A. should be to pass a resolution after the following manner: "Resolved, that we, the United Farmers of Alberta in convention assembled, believe in organization for political action, and that whereas we are an industrial organization and as such deem it inadvisable to officially enter the political arena, we commend to our members that political movement known as the Non-Partisan League, which is the true child of the U.F.A. Standing as the League does for the democratic election of legislative representatives; and for definite legislation which seeks to unite all people on the principle of issues instead of parties, we recommend that our members support this movement, and seek to direct it in such a way as to make it the true vehicle of democratic government, and that we will co-operate with this movement in the proper relation of an industrial to a political organization."

We do not seek this in the interests of the League, but in the interests of the U.F.A. We will fight the battles of the movement whether the U.F.A. co-operates with us or not, but we believe that both organizations would greatly profit were the U.F.A. to clear the air by the passing of some such resolution. If it did nothing else it would make clear the separate functions of both movements, and pave the way for mutual helpfulness and co-operation instead of the present indifference and incidentally would solve the problem of "What to do about Politics?" which is growing in both magnitude and intensity in the ranks of the U.F.A.

\* \* \*

**FREE SPEECH** Canada has been for some years governed by patriots who believed that they were showing their patriotism by doing things in its name which they would not do in their own names. Some professed democrats, for instance, voted for the election act in the name of patriotism, even though the principle of the act was contrary to their sense of right. May we be speedily delivered from this kind of patriotism.

One of the most valued principles of "Canadian Freedom"—a boasted heritage of British origin, namely freedom of speech has been with-

drawn in the name of patriotism. Those who stood firm for this principle are now confined in our prisons. In this way the most unexpected transformation has occurred. In Germany where the iron heel held down all expression of thought contrary to the wishes of the ruling class, freedom has been won, while in Canada where some measure of freedom once existed the imported iron heel of Germany stands firm on thought and action. And yet we won the battle for democracy. This seems incredible, but it is true.

Speech, whether in written words or oral, is the only known vehicle of thought communication. To limit this function to prescribed lines shuts off worlds of thought and possibilities from the unhappy people concerned; and the vision and life of the nation adopting it becomes narrow, self-centered and dangerous. Without freedom of thought and expression there can be no progress.

Consequently the gaining of liberty for our political prisoners, and the lifting of all bans from publications become matters of fundamental importance to human progress. This was recognized by the Alberta Federation of Labor as shown in its decision to go even to the extent of a general strike in gaining the re-establishment of this principle. In this matter we heartily endorse the Federation. If this and other liberties tampered with and restricted by small men in great places be not amended the avenue left will be the way of Russia. With freedom of speech we may extricate ourselves through sane educational methods, if this be denied who will assume responsibility for the consequences?

This freedom we must have. If the Government continues to withhold it in the face of universal importance we must take whatever course is left open for us.

\* \* \*

**BOLSHEVISM** The Bolshevik movement which first sprang into being in Russia, and which is spreading rapidly over Europe and likely to threaten the strongholds of class government throughout the world, is a natural result of conditions. It is like the river which has burst through the dams constructed to impede its natural course. Back of it all is the human desire to be freed from oppression, and to secure the fullest possible opportunity to live. As seen in operation, and particularly as reported by those who fear its coming here, this movement would seem to be wantonness and destruction let loose, and the first impression

is to repudiate it for its appearances without stopping to enquire what it is, and how it comes.

Autocratic government, unnecessary repression, exploitation of the masses for the benefit of the few—these are the conditions which will develop Bolshevism as surely as night follows day and day follows night. Russia has furnished the world with the supreme example of autocracy and exploitation; her class rulers kept her people in slavery by means of armed force, and punishments of unspeakable cruelty; every door of escape was strongly closed before the weary feet of the hungry multitude; there was nothing left for the people to do but to remain in perpetual slavery, or strike for liberty through the only channel left, namely, revolution. This channel was taken spontaneously. Human endurance, marvellous as it is, has its limit; once go beyond those limits and then woe to the autocracy that forced that limit.

Bolshevism then is first of all a spontaneous revolt against unbearable oppression. For a time at least it will be uncontrollable. It is human emotions overflowing the banks of endurance. As the body of water which leaps over the river dam seeks its level, so the surging human mass in the flood of passion rushes to rid itself of that which gave it pain. Hence destruction is the first thought of a Revolutionist. He seeks first to destroy that which stands in the way of happiness, and which should have long since been removed. Needless to speak of a constructive policy until you have gotten rid of that which makes every policy futile. Thus it may happen with Bolshevism as it has happened in the case of other revolutions that the human passions will spend themselves in destruction and leave little of a positive result behind.

Revolutions are as inevitable under given conditions as they are undesirable. Revolution is never brought on by revolutionists, it is brought by those who are the most stern and brutal opposers of human liberty.

\* \* \*

**CAN IT SPREAD IN CANADA?** Will Bolshevism spread in Canada? In answering this question we must ask—What are the conditions in Canada? Have we autocracy in Canada? Have we suppression of healthy and natural human liberty? Have we exploitation and a condition of virtual industrial slavery? He would be bold who would deny the existence of these conditions in Canada. Then as sure as these conditions exist, and all other means of escape from these

conditions are barred, so surely will Canada follow Russia in time.

\* \* \*

**HOW TO PREVENT IT** We point this out now because revolutions may be prevented a hundred years before they happen, and because we believe that revolutions ought not to be, and could not be, if intelligence be substituted for greed and stupidity. The Canadian people like the people of Russia want to govern themselves, they want to stop exploitation in human flesh, they want freedom of speech and press. If this can be secured in Canada without revolution, as we believe it can, then shall we have attained Bolshevism without the Bolsheviks.

What is to be feared in Bolshevism is its methods, and these methods are forced by conditions. If the Canadian class government and the money kings will adopt the spirit of fairness and justice then no revolution of the Russian variety need be feared here. But a law like the Election Act which is a bar to people taking the sane course of progress, the prohibiting of free speech and press, and the encouragement given to the monied interests to continue ruthless exploitation of the people may lead into dangerous waters. The Government of Canada should leave the people free to advance as far as they know how to advance, the ballot must be allowed to decide, then no consequences need be feared.

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**Losses to Our Movement**

By Mrs. L. C. McKinney, M.L.A.



The ranks of our membership in the Claresholm Constituency have been sadly depleted during the past few days in the passing of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Amundsen and Mr. Joe McAlpine.

Mr. and Mrs. Amundsen were the unfortunate victims of an automobile accident near Midnapore on Sunday, Dec. 29th and the whole community of Claresholm was shrouded in sorrow as they were among the earliest and most prominent settlers in the district and were always identified with every progressive movement in the town.

It is therefore not surprising that such a man with large farming interests should be one of the first to identify himself with the Non-Partisan movement. True to his nature he was not only a member but one of the very active type and during the election campaign of 1917 he was chairman of the central committee of Claresholm and spared neither time nor energy in his efforts to advance the interests of the League. A man of his vision with his years of experience and sane judgment is one whom we can ill afford to lose.

Mr. McAlpine is another of the many victims of influenza. A young man only 35 years of age, a prosperous farmer and a splendid citizen succumbed to flu-pneumonia on Tuesday Jan. 7th leaving a wife and three small children. Mr. McAlpine was one of the most energetic of our members a man who intelligently adopted the principles of the League and in all sincerity and enthusiasm proceeded to carry them out. To such men as this we look for our stalwart supporters and the place he has occupied will be exceedingly hard to fill.

We deeply appreciate what such men as these have given our movement and while we mourn their loss very deeply yet will not be discouraged by their going but will rather let the inspiration of their lives be as a guiding star to lead us to greater effort. In extending to the stricken families our heartfelt sympathy I am sure we are only expressing the thoughts of all our membership.

Another of our friends to suffer a sad bereavement is Rev. Will Irwin, of Edmonton. Mrs Irwin, a young woman only 28 years of age, died from Influenza on Sunday December 22nd leaving two little boys aged 3 and 4 years. Mr. Irwin was himself ill at the time and while able to attend the funeral services was not able to accompany the body of his wife East for burial. Mr. Irwin prior to June last resided at Lomond and is well known in Alberta as a progressive thinker and as one who is keenly interested in social reform. Those who attended the Non-Partisan Convention in Calgary last March will remember the zeal and interest he displayed in our cause. The sympathy of our whole membership is extended to our brother in this hour of sorrow.

Louise C. McKinney

**An Appreciation of  
John Kennedy's Position**

By The Editor

We reproduced in our last issue an article which appeared in the Weekly Sun from the pen of Mr. John Kennedy on the question of the farmers entering politics. Mr. Kennedy is one of the great founders of the farmers organized movement and speaks to-day from the wisdom which comes of long experience and mature judgment. We are more than pleased to find that such an able and successful leader should give expression in a statesman-like and comprehensive manner to the ideas which are fundamental to the Non-Partisan movement, and which constitute the policy of this paper.

Some of the points brought out by Mr. Kennedy are worthy of recapitulation and comment. He gives a final answer to the fearful souls who will not move until they find a leader, or who predict failure because some farmers' organizations failed years ago. He properly says that "no leader is required until we build up something to lead," and that those who fear failure "lack faith in themselves and faith in humanity." There is no doubt that every movement will fail until it knows how to succeed, and it is only by failure that we can get to KnowHow. All great discoveries whether it be of the poles of the earth, new continents, or in the realm of science and philosophy, have been made on the failures of multitude. The fact that Nansen failed to find the North Pole was no argument against Peary going in search of it, nor did it prevent Peary from discovering it. All failures are but stepping stones to success, so that we have more hopes of winning out in the political venture because others have tried and failed; we will not repeat their errors.

The great danger of wrecking the existing farmers' organizations does not come from any endeavour after political action of an independent or domestic origin. As Mr. Kennedy clearly shows the farmers will be bound to support the party whether Grit or Tory which adopts most of the platform of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. The result will be that members of the U.F.A. or of any of the other farmers' organizations who belong to the party accepting the least of the farmer's platform will be divided against the others and hence disruption. It is said that the best way to fight a defensive war is to invade the country from which the offensive

is expected, or to take the offensive. This is true in our case, the best way to protect farmers' organizations from the exploitation of politicians is to make an organized attack against the politicians; to build up a new political movement which will bring people of common interest together. We anticipated this in Alberta and did two years ago what Mr. Kennedy now urges upon the farmers of Ontario. But we would be glad to co-operate with all the provinces in a matter of such vast importance, and believe in making an attempt at bringing labor and farmer together. The time is ripe now for a Dominion Convention composed of Farmers and Labor men to formulate the policy to be followed, and to launch an educational and organization campaign that will cover the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Kennedy shows the advantage of holding the balance in the Legislative Assembly. We agree with this but are not going to be content with one foot on each end of the political "teeter." The balance of power among nations is fast giving place to a League of Nations; the balance of power in parliament must give place to a Parliament of the People. Let us have the balance of power by all means but that will only be a step toward complete control of all governmental forces by the Canadian people. This is our aim.

\* \* \*

Read "Do Elections Concern Women," page 14.

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## Wheat Prices, Freight Rates, and Oats

By Jas. Weir, M.L.A.



The most serious question facing the farmers of Western Canada at the moment is the absence of any assurance on the part of the Government of a satisfactory price fixed or otherwise for this year's wheat crop. The Calgary Herald in Friday's issue gave the astonishing advice to the farmers to not sow wheat

if any alternative offered. Sanford Evans, whom one of the papers describes as a great authority on wheat marketing, advises no fixed price and we are informed from divers sources that Canada cannot afford the financial loss involved in a fixed price for our wheat equal to the United States price. The farmers of Western Canada take second place to no class in the world in their pleasure that the war is over, they have not been behind any class in the Empire in their efforts toward that end either in their response to the call for enlistment of men, or production of food for their support. They knew as little of the date when the collapse would occur as anybody, and they went on preparing with the same effort as did other interested classes.

In this district, and I believe the condition holds good over the Province, there is more land in good shape for a wheat crop than there ever was before. This land was prepared at war time expense in labor, equipment, and cost of living and the Government's Macedonian cry for the maximum of production never ceased. In view of these facts and some others which I shall state the situation is one of great seriousness.

As a result of an interview with a number of merchants last week, I learned that from price lists already received from manufacturers' agents and wholesalers in Eastern Canada that prices next fall would not only not be lower but would be higher by nearly 100 per cent. Underwear, for instance, that this year cost the retailer \$36 a dozen are listed for next year at \$70 a dozen. A long line of necessities that we discussed showed a similar forecast.

There is not space to go into details, but I am going to make bold to point out to the Government that if prices that the consumers must pay for necessities are to be raised to any such an extent and the farmer must take an appreciably lower price for his produce, a one-eyed man can see trouble and dissatisfaction on the horizon. If the United States farmer who hasn't done any more to win the war than has the farmer of Western Canada gets two dollars net for his wheat and we must take say \$1.50 or whatever the manipulator chooses to give there will grow up not a Bolshevik but an annexation sentiment in the West that may result in nothing short of the loss of a large slice of Canada to the British Crown. President Wilson's doctrine of self-determination ought to be as applicable to Western Canada as to Alsace and Lorraine or any part of Europe. The fault will not be ours, for the West is wholeheartedly Canadian, but this con-

dition added to the tariff tyranny may become the last straw.

The ablest commentators are agreed that it was not slavery that caused the Civil War but the Hydra Headed monster Tariff Reform. The cotton growing and agricultural populations of the South and West had exhausted all their energies in the quest for redress from the evil effects of the special privileges of the entrenched business and manufacturing interests of New England. And there can be no Canadian either by birth or adoption but must stand appalled at the prospect of anything that would tend to bring about a repetition of that fratricidal struggle on the northern half of the Continent.

That there is a cleavage growing gradually wider between East and West, no thinking Canadian can deny nor cease to deplore; and on both Eastern and Western Canada the ever widening gulf between Dives and Lazarus but increases the danger of the situation. The other day

methods, like another blind and desperate Sampson lays his brawny hands upon the pillars of the temple and reduces it to wreck and ruin.

### Why the Fort William Freight Rate?

A few weeks ago I ventured some comment in the Non-Partisan in reference to the freight paid on Alberta wheat which by the order of the Grain Supervisors' Board was prohibited from shipment out of the province.

In "The United News" for December an attempt is made to justify the injustice on the ground that the price was fixed basis Fort William. Why Basis Fort William? Why freight on Wheat or rather why Fort William price on wheat that never was intended to go to Fort William and never actually went there? Why Basis Fort William in the first place? I'll tell you.

When Alberta first emerged from a range country to a grain country and during the years when all the grain grown in the province was consumed within the province there was very little friction between the dealers and the producers.

The first elevators were built largely by and with the money of the C.P.R. These elevators as Garners for the settlers' grain were a source of enormous profits and the company that has always owned the Government of Canada since it was built, conceived the crafty idea of having wheat dealt with differently from any other freight commodity; and so set a blanket rate for wide areas and not as in the case of other goods from each station. These elevators as garnering mediums were, as has been stated above, so enormously profitable that the brilliant idea was conceived of repeating the trick at the Lakes front on the pleas of "Lake freight" Terminals, and several other subterfuges, not to mention the colossal annual stealings under the forms of law by way of surrenders in terminal elevators.

If I ship a carload of steers from Parkland to Calgary do I pay freight to Winnipeg or Fort William or Toronto? If Basis Fort William on wheat that never leaves Alberta why not on steers, or lumber or logs, or dogs or hogs, or anything else.

Why does the U.G.G. man drag flour in by the ears, can't the millers, and don't they, take care of themselves in that regard?

The freight rate from Parkland to Fort William is 31 cents per hundred.

If a Calgary mill gets wheat from there and ships it east for export within six months, either as flour or wheat, it is asked to pay freight from Calgary to Fort William less the freight from Parkland to Calgary, plus one cent per hundred milling in transit charge to the railway company, or about 21 1/2¢ per hundred. On that portion of the wheat or flour that is used in Alberta by 500,000 people, the farmer was charged 31¢ per hundred and the miller gains 10 1/2¢ per hundred which the farmer loses, and no sophistry nor side-stepping can get away from the fact. That the United News should rush to the defence of the millers is a somewhat singular and significant fact. The writer says: "We have one price for flour in Alberta, it is delivered to points far away from the mills at the same price as it is sold close to the mills." Will the writer tell us how the Alberta mills can meet the price of competitors in Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Kenora and other points 600 to 800 miles away, and grinding the same quality of wheat and making similar qualities of flour. Is it not because in part at least that the 10 1/2 cts velvet in freight on a large quantity of their wheat from Alberta points gives them an advantage over their Eastern competitors? Why

### READ YOUR "NON - PARTISAN"

Do you read your "Non-Partisan"? If you fail to do so you are missing something. Here is the opinion of one of the smartest young journalists in Canada regarding it.

DEAR —

Yesterday I spent a most enjoyable hour reading your ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN for December 4th. There is quite a lot of matter in this issue that I would like to give a much wider distribution by publishing it in RURAL CANADA. Due credit will be given you and it will all be to the good of your cause. First, the cartoon on the front page, "The Great Obstacle to Progress," is corkingly good and just the very thing to illustrate our reports of the U. F. W. O. Convention held last week in Toronto. "The Promise of the Future," by John Glambeck, is so good I want to run it, also I must publish "Outlawed by Lawyers," by Jas. Weir. That article in a previous issue on The Grain Growers Guide by Mr. Carp, was so hot that I could not refrain from taking it also. Such criticism cannot but do good and I was right glad to see your Editor's reply on page 5, Dec. 4th issue.

I had a pleasant interview with Mrs. McKinney and wish to compliment you all on the efforts you are making. Appreciating your co-operation.

—CHAS. C. NIXON, B.S.A.,  
Editor, "Rural Canada," Toronto.

a Manitoba farmer sold young fit beef (too light for export) for seven cents a pound and sat at his friend's table in Winnipeg and helped eat boiling beef at 40 cents. A week ago a farmer sold hogs for Calgary market at seventeen cents and bought bacon at 65 cents a pound, and a friend of mine sold 'for Christmas, young dressed geese at 20 cents a pound that were priced retail in Calgary butcher shop at 38 cents a pound, just 65 miles distant.

I am not a pessimist, but I am daily confronted with conditions and incidents that lead me to the inevitable conclusion that the farmers and workers' day for wherearing and resolute, has gone by, and that their hour for political action has struck if they are to prevent (and upon no others so especially devolves the duty), a condition that degrades a self-respecting law-abiding citizen into a volcanic "sans culotte" who, having lost hope of bettering conditions by lawful

## The Alberta Non Partisan

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did Ogilvie's build at Medicine Hat while they had a great plant at Winnipeg? The nearer you get to an Alberta farmer the better he can be skinned. It can't be done nearly so well at long range.

### A Word About Oats

Now a word about oats. For many years Alberta farmers have paid in freight because of "Location"—that is distance from Fort William—millions of dollars.

This year Alberta didn't produce enough oats for herself and Eastern British Columbia. Seed promised to be scarce. Then what? Mr. Wilson, assistant Seed Commissioner, consulted the "Trade" (not the farmer that had oats to sell or oats to buy) but the Winnipeg Grain Exchange members, the go-betweens, the Come-on men, the strong arm gang of the grain business, and with them agreed upon a price for Alberta Seed Oats, and Mr. Wilson recommended it to the Grain supervisors Board to be "fixed." One firm in the Exchange however, refused to be a party to the fixing at Wilson's price, for the very good reason that commercial feed oats being governed by the law of supply and demand, on account of the short crop were worth seven cents more than the proposed price for seed.

The manager of this firm went to Winnipeg and protested that Alberta for years had paid millions because of its so called disadvantage of distance and on the first occasion when an Alberta farmer by reason of the short crop stood to reap a small advantage in price in what little he had, Dr. McGill, chairman of the "Grain Supervisor's Board" at One Dollar salary a year, and Secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange at \$8,000 a year, steps in and says, "No, we won't let an Alberta farmer get a larger price than a farmer in Manitoba or Saskatchewan." It was pointed out to him that the Alberta farmer who could get 7 cents more for feed oats than for seed oats could easily make a swap by sowing a few wild boys in the seed bin. And then the threat was made to commandeer every bushel of oats in Alberta. However, that notion was soon abandoned and an adjustment made that temporarily at least seemed satisfactory. Now this all resulted through our old friend "Basis Fort William."

Let me point out two outstanding and astonishing incidents connected with this matter. (1) The man who put up the fight for the Alberta farmer in this proposed raw deal was whom? Hon. T. A. Crerar? Not on your life, Manitoba was interested. Politics had crept in and Crerar sent a small trunk full of telegrams, but did nothing. The United Grain Growers? Guess again. Their headquarters are in Winnipeg. They had absorbed the Alberta Farmer's Company, and their duty lay with the Winnipeg end. H. W. Wood, a member of the Board? Well, Mr. Wood arrived on Wednesday two days after the row had reached white heat, and anything he did was in connection with the final compromise and not with the original protest. Well whom? The United News of December tells you Jno. I. McFarland of the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. The manager of a despised trust held the fort for two days and defied the whole caboodle of his fellow members of the Grain Exchange in the interests of the Alberta farmer who was fortunate enough to have seed oats to sell.

And they tell us to speak of "our" Company, "our" organization, "our" brethren. The Spanish proverb says: "I can fight my enemies but O Lord deliver me from my friends."

Will this and other matters somewhat similar in import be aired in the U.F.A.

### What About a Government Guarantee in Canada?



### CONVENTION BRIEFS!

Farmers keep United. \*

Those opposed to you would like it to read "Untied" Farmers. \*

The strength and solidarity of your organization is your greatest weapon. \*

Do not let "petty" matters effect division. \*

Farmers must play their part with others in great events to come and which will carry heavy responsibilities. \*

The power of the farmer is asserting itself and intelligently directed should in a short time remedy the conditions you have to live and labor under. \*

Farmers contributed in full measure to winning the war. \*

New conditions now have to be faced. \*

It is important that the farmer should contribute his full quota toward building up a Canada worth while. \*

The "privileged" who have for so long held sway in our Governments are now full of apprehension as to the future. \*

And well they might be! \*

For farmers are working together for the betterment of humanity. \*

Your convention has become justly famous. \*

You have many friends and well wishers outside your own movement who are watching how you conduct your business. \*

By your own conduct in your "own Parliament" let them see how well fitted you are to participate in the government of Alberta and Canada. \*

\*

### THE POLITICAL NIGHT OF THE CONVENTION

It is expected that Wednesday night will be the political night of the U.F.A. Convention for both Mrs. L. C. McKinney, Non-Partisan member of the Alberta Legislature, for Claresholm, and John Kennedy of Winnipeg, will address the Convention that evening on future problems that will confront the farmers. No delegate should miss the opportunity to hear these two speakers.

The N.P.L. extends the hand of fellowship to the convention and feels proud to be allied with such movement working together for the betterment of humanity. The aim of the N.P.L. is to extend the U.F.A. principle of co-operation among farmers into the wider sphere of politics, being convinced it will obtain quicker and better results.

We trust the delegates will all do their full share in a broad-minded way to strengthen the movement so that it will stand abreast with other organizations—pulling as part of a team. That must be your aim. Let wisdom temper zeal, let patriotism in its highest sense rise above partyism, and let the free course of democracy prevail throughout your sessions. May the U.F.A. rise to the opportunity of the future.

\*

Read "The Fighting Programme of the League in the States." Page 12.

### NON-PARTISANS FORM BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA

#### Unanimous Approval is Given to New Measure

Bismarck, N.D., Jan. 11.—Unanimous approval was given last night at the caucus of Non-Partisan League members of the state legislature to the administration measure creating the Bank of North Dakota capitalized at \$2,000,000, with capital produced by the sale of state bonds, and to another administration bill creating a state industrial commission which will manage all state public industries that may be established by the present legislature. The bank is to be made the official depository of all public monies of the state, counties, cities, townships and school districts.

The bill provides that all deposits in the state bank shall be guaranteed by the state and shall be exempt from state, county, and municipal taxes.

Passage of both measures is expected, as the league leaders claim a two-thirds vote in each house.

—From The Calgary Herald.

## The Non Partisan Letter Box

Our space is limited. Letters should not exceed 500 words.

### URGES U.F.A. TO ADOPT POLITICAL ACTION

Pine Lake, Alta., Dec. 30, 1918

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

The recent discussion in your columns debating the advisability of the U. F. A. becoming a union with a political purpose, is of interest to many others than the members of the farmers' organization. I at one time considered the introduction of politics into the accepted mission of the U. F. A. would prove undesirable; chiefly for reasons which I gather from your editorial, were advanced by some who are opposed to such action. But today, although fully aware of difficulties which cannot be belittled, I am strongly convinced that for a farmers' organization to accomplish anything worthy its strength, its members must cast aside their party affiliations and stand together politically united on every issue which concerns their welfare and become a union, "in fact."

I have closely followed the U. F. A. annual conventions, and gauging their worth by their results, and I know of no fairer test, the results are inadequate and disappointing. The conventions hitherto have possessed neither the political force or bearing which could have enabled them to overcome many crying abuses, nor has there existed the required concentration to grapple with one abuse at a time with sufficient resolution to compel an admission of its reality and the necessity of its redress.

I need take but one example out of many. We have an iniquitous tariff on agricultural machinery, an instance in itself of class legislation, brought forward at every Farmers' convention. Has anything yet been effected? No, or is it even nearer being dealt with. Here is an issue of importance not merely to each individual farmer, but affecting indirectly through a curtailment of his efforts, every acre of arable land throughout this Dominion. Is such matter to be periodically introduced, degenerating into a stalking horse with apparently no further purpose than the creation of enthusiasm among the uninitiated? Need we wonder if many are tired of witnessing the farce? "A dull ill-acted comedy," which might have been otherwise if the farmers throughout Canada had stood together politically united.

In great contrast to such ineptitude we see a Manufacturers' Association, an example to ourselves of a thoroughly developed political union, year in and year out proving its worth for a purpose; strong enough to win all, and to hold all. —And the farmer too, to gain his point, must meet political organization with political organization.—There is no other way.

Occupation on the land carries in its train, more than any other calling, a great dual responsibility which sounder legislation might well insist upon, rather than hinder or forget. I believe every honest farmer will support my assertion that there is a bounden duty, not only to himself but to the community, that his land shall be properly cultivated, and at all times made the most of, and if this admission be accepted, then taxes upon agricultural machinery hinder the way to better farming and should not, in the national interest, be submitted to.

In considering this, pressing need for a more comprehensive organization, farmers will do well to reflect before it is

too late, that within the near future a heavier general taxation has inevitably to be dealt with, which will assuredly follow the defined lines of least resistance. And freedom from more than a just proportion of the coming burden will depend on the strength of their organization, not as an industrial, but as a political institution strong enough to be reckoned with and capable of repelling all who would unduly interfere with it.

As a class, farmers have looked askance at change, and taken too small heed of the constant development in the general circumstances of life, and while this may have been their loss, it has also been to some extent a gain. It has added to the solidity and respectability of a calling, but it has made the individual slower in the mass than other men to grasp and promote his own advancement. But in the main, such men are influenced by the strong common sense which their daily occupation fosters, and they will yet turn to practical purpose the strength which political unity alone can afford them. They will remember, too, that dissension can lead not only to disaster but to a continuance of that lack of political cooperation which has proved disastrous to the well doing of the agricultural classes in the management and direction of their public affairs.

Agricultural industry the world over has proved itself the well-tried balance wheel of every State and how forcibly that is to be accentuated with the extraordinary socialistic unrest existing no one can forecast. But this we do know, that unobtrusively for generations the farmer has fulfilled his mission, and unconsciously he has grown a wider destiny. The time-worn furrows of our forbears are converging on the goal of a greater political independence which we have faith will be worthily employed. There is before us today an open road leading to a well justified, but too long delayed Political Independent Endeavor.

—H. Y. FRANK LAWRENCE.

### LOOK AFTER AFFAIRS AT HOME

Travers, Alta., Dec. 28, 1918

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

I have read with interest and benefit the various articles and editorials in your paper and wish to express my appreciation.

W. D. Bayley's letter from New Zealand in your December 17th issue, radiates the true idea on social reform. Worldwide uplift towards the "Commonwealth of Brotherly Love" will alone get rid of the inherent selfishness which allows men to fatten upon the misery of their fellows. Mrs. McKinney, in "Meeting Kindred Spirits," also strikes an uplifting note that strongly appeals to me, and W. R. Ball has a bee in his bonnet which will eventually gather honey for many a struggling farmer.

Am afraid though we have a long road to travel. There are men in this district who have shown a broad-minded viewpoint on various subjects, who are considering that they request the department of municipal affairs to take over this municipality, and I believe if it were put to the vote there would be a big majority in favor of returning to the old system, "because it's cheaper."

"Oh, commercial spirit, what things you are responsible for!" They would rather be governed by a "department"

than govern themselves, and cannot or rather will not run "a two by four" municipality and yet want, or think they want, to run the nation.

For what we often lose sight of is the fact—"That a fraction of a whole is subject and governed by the same laws which regulate the whole, or vice versa." If a man cannot control himself he is unfit—although it's more honored in the breach than in the observance—to control others, and if I, as a fraction, will not give the self-government, I cannot kick if "George" gets a rake-off for doing what I should do myself. Especially if after asking or electing him to do my work I allow him to do it in any old way, with complete indifference as to results or costs, except when the bill gets too big. Then I wake up for a time, fire him when possible to do so, and then sleep, to waken up and do it all over again, and so on ad infinitum.

Trusting the germ of "self-consciousness" will assert itself some day.

—S. G. THURLOW.

### BE MORE EXPLICIT

Gleichen, Alta., Dec. 30, 1918

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

Referring to D. A. Galbraith's article "The Farmer's Parliament," in Dec. 18th issue, in discussing U. F. A. revenue in the last paragraph, he says, "It is a hideous blunder for it to accept a gratuity from a stock company (a merger) not operated as a co-operative concern."

Being one of the Executive Committee who have been responsible for the method of financing the U. F. A. for the past few years I would ask Mr. Galbraith to be more explicit and to say just what company he refers to and what is the nature of the "hideous blunder," to which he refers.

—W. D. TREGO.

### TRADING

Barons, Alta., January 3rd, 1919.

Mr. Editor:

There recently appeared in the "Grain Growers' Guide," some timely articles suggesting a closer relationship and co-operation between organized labor and the organized farmers, and which was well worth consideration of both sides.

But from past experience it appears to be a ticklish question to bring up for discussion among the farmers. The U. F. A., years ago, went on clear record, that as an organization it would have no truck or trade with organized labor. The subject was declared unconstitutional, and organized labor was practically thrown out of the U. F. A. Convention, after coming there in good faith and in full accord with the two highest officers and delegates from some fourteen locals of the U. F. A. Is co-operation between the two bodies as industrial organizations after this experience possible?

Besides, the direct aims of the two organizations are almost opposed to each other. The wage workers want higher wages and decent living conditions and the farmer can do very little to bring this about, and cares less. The farmer wants higher prices for his products and maybe cheaper labor, and no one yet caught the wage worker lying awake nights figuring out how to increase the cost of food, or decrease the stipends that the hired man demands.

We can co-operate on the political field, but what is our idea of co-operation here? Do we want the industrial workers to endorse the Farmers' Platform which recently was drafted by the Canadian

Council of Agriculture, and help to elect candidates that may be endorsed by the farmers organizations?

If this is what we want, and organized labor agrees to do so, and carries it out successfully, on what tree does their melon grow? There is not so much in this platform of direct benefit to the wage-workers, but what they could draft a better one, from their point of view. Or will the farmers pledge themselves and their organizations to back up organized labor just as effectively, when the manufacturers, mine operators, and railway companies commence to slash wages right and left? For if we want the help of organized labor in specified cases, we should also be specific in stating how we will return the favor. It is not enough that we give the wage workers our sympathy, while they are lifting us out of the mud, and a promise to co-operate should occasion arise.

Now, all this seems to me to come under the head of truck and trade between two organizations, who are entirely different if not opposed to each other, industrially. It might have been the only possible way to try for relief a few years ago, but now since there is a political organization established, outside of the respective industrial organizations, for the very purpose of making concerted political action possible, it is not only ludicrous but foolish to resort to this—You-lift-my-bootstrap-and-I-lift-yours, trading business.

Would it not be far better if both sides got a clear idea on what and who they are fighting, each from their own point of view? This would show both sides that the enemy of each, is the same party, the non-producing, non-essential, money-owning class, who control the Government and who buy and sell human labor at a profit exactly as any other merchandise. If some farmer thinks he is not classed by this class the same as livestock, hay and grain, he should read all the clauses in the mortgage he is trying to pay, and then make one more guess.

Now, if both farmer and wage-worker compare notes and find that he who buys one, and sells the other, is the same gentleman, what would be more natural for them to do than to pool their interests long enough to establish a clearing-house,—and use it—for the abolition and disposal of this party they both have said unkind things about for "Lo, these many years." The clearing-house is established, the farmers call it "The Non-Partisan League," "The Wage-Worker," "The Labor Party." Each has its own entrance, but both trade over the same counter. It is now up to you, Mr. Farmer and Wage-Worker, to do your trading there. Only by political action—not as farmers and wage-workers—but as producers—Get that, Mr. Farmer—it is as a producer you encounter your troubles,—can you obtain what you have been working for, wishing for, and fighting in the dark for, all your life. When we learn to make common cause of common needs and to use the ballot in unity instead of nullifying each other's vote, then, and not until then, will a new era dawn for us, and then will we commence to see more meaning in life than to be slaves of the factory and serfs of the soil. It will never come as long as we take the advice of, and vote for those who live off the result of our labor, whether on farm, in factory, mine or trench. And if any one on earth needs this lesson driven home, it is the farmers.

—JOHN S. LUND.

WANTS U.F.A. TO ENDORSE  
THE N.P.L.

Youngstown, Alta, Jan. 1st, 1919

Editor, Non-Partisan:

The Canadian of Agriculture have passed action to secure the nomination and election of candidates who will support the Farmers' Platform.

This looks like a step in the right direction, and I trust our provincial organisations will not overlook this matter at their next convention. Would it not be better for the U.F.A. to endorse the policy of the N.P.L.? For if we let it go too lightly, there is a possibility the U.F.A. and farmers will get fooled again. We are all pretty well aware that at election times the party candidate will get on the platform and tell us that he stands for the whole farmer's platform; then when he gets elected, he forgets about his promises. So I hope that the U.F.A. will endorse the programme which has the referendum and recall and determine not to vote for any candidate without his recall is signed, no matter what his promises are. In this way the farmers would know what they are doing, when they cast their ballots for a candidate; and I also trust that Labor would in the immediate future follow the farmers, and also endorse the N.P.L. platform.

Let us work together under one banner, since our objects are identically the same, namely the eliminating of the profiteer or middleman in Canada.

—H. A. WIERTZ

CUT OUT THE SARCASM

Gleichen, Alta, Dec. 30, 1918

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

In explaining "The Meaning of a Crown," in December 18th issue, our friend James Weir of Parkland, again spills sarcasm all through the article, without saying anything constructive, in an attempt to belittle our friend S. S. Dunham.

He says in part: "The issues before the Alberta Farmers at the moment are so immeasurably bigger than Dunham, Weir, Wood, Crerar or any other individual that I am not going to devote space to any of them," etc.

I happened to notice a local in the Grain Growers Guide of December 18th, from the U. F. A. secretary of Parkland, Mr. W. H. Boyle, in which he says, "We advertised a meeting here three different times last winter and there was never enough in attendance to allow the meeting to be held."

I believe that charity should begin at home and if Mr. Weir is so much interested in the welfare of the Alberta Farmers it would seem to me that he might well begin at home and get the farmers of his community together and get them to working with him. This little local convinces me that there is more truth than poetry in what I have heard Jim say on more than one occasion, viz: "I have got to go outside of the Parkland district to get any support."

Having served on the U. F. A. Executive with both Mr. Weir and Mr. Dunham I can say with all sincerity that they are alike in some respects but very different in most ways.

Mr. Weir is like all of us—he has some very good qualities and some very bad ones. His love for sarcasm is one of his great weaknesses. Mr. Dunham has his faults as all other individuals have but he has the true co-operative spirit and his whole heart is wrapped up in the wel-

sare of the U. F. A. and the common people as a whole.

If Jim will only cut out the sarcasm and throw his hatchet in the well and apply his talents to something constructive he can be of great help to humanity.

—W. D. TREGO

NOTE.—The standing of the Parkland Local is as follows: Seven members in January, 14 members in July, 40 members at date. James Weir and the local president got 26 members in one afternoon. Mr. Trego's own local has a reduced membership compared with last year. Parkland has an increased.

When Mr. Trego makes a statement that I said I had to go outside Parkland district for my support, I simply quote these figures. In my election, I got 32 more votes in Parkland poll than my two opponents combined. In five polls nearest my home, the poll stood: Glendenning, 73; Cooper, 76; Weir, 225; Good-bye TREGO.

HOW PEACE CAME IN FRANCE

(This letter has been sent us for publication by D. H. Galbraith, of Vulcan.)

France, Nov. 25th, 1918.

Dear Brother: I have been transferred to headquarters and am one of a guard of three over a coal dump, doing 3 hrs. duty and six off, but no day off. Our billets are fine and comfortable being in the servants quarters on an immense estate. We are now in a town called Annappes, a few kilos east of Lille and it is much more comfortable here than with the company up forward. Several cases of "flu" have been reported in our company, two having died from it. We have not received any definite information of our return but are all hoping for a get away at an early date.

Just received the pail of strawberry jam and box of eats last night. The jam is joy as we get half a loaf of bread each day so save part for lunch when we come off shift at night. I have acquired a real appetite for tea as we were not allowed to drink water some places. Am mailing a Boche gas mask home. It is hard to collect souvenirs as we loose them in moving.

Our front on the Eleventh was quiet, a contrast to the days before. The big guns were quite close but had quit belching out fire and death and we were not breaking our necks watching for the "Fritzie" machines coming over and dropping a few. I have a matchbox made out of part of a machine brought down right beside where we were working.

Am hoping to return via England and look forward to obtaining leave for a while there. Best Xmas wishes to all,

Sapper A. C. GALBRAITH,  
C.R.T. 5th Batt., B.E.F.  
France

Public Meeting

MRS. MCKINNEY, M.L.A., is to address a Public Meeting at Vulcan on Saturday next, Jan. 18th, at 2.30 p.m., under the auspices of the Vulcan, U.F.A.

Guy Johnson, President Vulcan U.F.A. will take the Chair.

Every U.F.A. and N.P.L. member is urged to attend and hear the speaker.

## The Women on the Prairie

By John Glambeck,  
Secretary, Queenstown U.F.A.



On the prairies of Western Canada, are living to-day, thousands of women who left friends, relatives, and whatever comforts a residence nearer civilization offered to go with their husbands to the land of promise to try to make a home and if possible, better the prospects for their children. The privation, hardships, and all round misery, most of these women have passed through would fill a big book if written up. Ralph Connor, R. J. C. Stead, Mrs. Nellie McClung and other writers of Western fiction have tried to lift the veil that hangs over this condition, but nobody save those, who have actually lived and witnessed what has been endured on the prairie can really understand them.

The great commercial interests of Canada well know that those fertile prairies we hear so much about will bring no returns, to the business men of their class, unless somebody can be induced to take up and cultivate this land. Hence they instruct the government, (which at present is merely a Committee to look after the business of the rich) to advertise for settlers. In the East, in the States, and in many places of the world, government immigration agents can be found with glaring advertisements inviting the landless to come to Western Canada, get a free home and grow rich and happy. Unfortunately, after these settlers have been landed, the government appears to forget all about them and when some of the settlers do make good it is in spite of, and not because the government gave them any assistance. All over Western Canada you will find settlements which are all the way from 20 to 50 miles from a railroad and where the settlers for years in vain have pleaded for railroads, better roads, bridges, etc.

While trying to farm under these conditions are hard on the farmer it is still harder on the farmer's wife. During the grain hauling season, which is generally from fall to spring, during the worst kind of winter weather, many a farmer's wife has bid her husband good-bye on a Monday morning and agreed to attend to the stock, carry the water and wood, and do various chores until he returned which may be next day or several days after. With the knowledge that her husband had to drive over bad roads, ford streams, or cross a river on some delapidated old ferry, the poor woman was in constant torture until he returned, fearing he would get stuck, have a break down, or even lose his life. If crops were sure and prices good every year those conditions might be endured, but as every one knows who have farmed here, the farmer gambles more or less every year he puts in a crop and there is not a district in Western Canada where once every few years drought, frost or hail will make crops either a partial or total failure, and some districts two years in succession.

Now then, when the majority of farmers, who had little or no capital to start with and have had to get credit at the bank, from the implement dealers and town merchants, are faced with a crop failure, it is very hard on them, but it is still harder on their wife and children. It is humiliating enough for the farmer to go to town and tell his creditors that he can't pay and to ask for another year's time on his notes,

but what about his wife? During the whole summer she has faithfully helped what she could to raise a crop; she has hoped for shoes and warm clothing for herself and children for the winter, she hoped to have another room added to the little tar papered shack, and for a few other things she needed in the house. Put yourself in her place facing another year with not a cent to buy the most necessary things to live on and the credit in town cut off.

Comparisons are often made between the wife of the farmer and the city workman generally in favor of the first one. Still unenviable as the position of the city workman's wife may be she at least knows that if her husband is working there is a pay day on Saturday night, while the farmer's wife, when crops fail, has worked a whole year without pay. And the farmer's wife also knows that the interest and compound interest demanded by those who trust the farmer, will eat up most of the profit on next year's crop.

Yes, when the crop does come, many a farmer, after returning home after selling a load of grain, have had to tell his wife that the dress she has been hoping for, the clothing for the children, the pieces of furniture and bed clothing and other things so badly needed cannot be bought until the notes are paid, that all their creditors like Shylock of old, are clamoring for their pound of flesh, that if, he, the farmer, wants to retain his standing as an honest man, the bank, the implement man and storekeepers must have their end paid first, and then, if there be anything left the wife may get hers.

But the economic side is not all of it. For years the farmer's wife lives isolated. Neighbors are few and far between. No school nor church, no social recreation of any kind. Hard as is the lot of the farmer he meets with fellow farmers on the road or in town. But his wife sees or meets few, and day after day it is the same monotonous, dreary outlook. I know of farmer's wives who did not go to town for four or five years. In fact, if they had to travel on a lumber wagon of hay rack for 30 or 40 miles it would be more of a torture than a joy ride.

But perhaps the most dreaded and most terrible thing the farmer's wife has to face in the newer settlements on the prairie, is the great distance from Doctors and Hospital. Many a grave in the prairie graveyards are the last resting place of farmer's wives who have died after childbirth and who would undoubtedly have been living still had there been a doctor around at the right time. But as Doctors charge one dollar, per mile for going out into the country, the people who live 30 to 40 miles from town and have little or no money, takes chances. The help of the nearest neighbor woman is obtained and while often things turn out alright, yet many times it doesn't. Much has been written of the bravery of our soldiers, but when one thinks of the silent battles fought in the years of toiling and struggling undergone by "the women on the prairie" and remembers the spirit that must have filled their souls and which allowed them to "stay with the game," one realizes no greater life has been lived, no grander death died.

"The bravest battle that was ever fought, Shall I tell you where and when? On the maps of the world, you'll find it not; 'Twas fought by the mothers of men."

Nay, not with cannon or battle shot,  
With sword or nobler pen,  
Nay, not with eloquent word or thought,  
From the mouths of wonderful men.

But deep in the walled up woman's heart,  
Of women that would not yield,  
But bravely, silently, bore her part,  
Lo! there is the battlefield."

While it is true that the conditions described are changed in the better farming districts after a few years, it is also true that they remain altogether too long in most places and while some farmers now ride in automobiles and live in modern houses, it is an absolute fact that the majority of homes all over the prairie still consist of old frame tar papered shacks, without any modern conveniences whatever. The farmer's wife still carries water and wood from a long distance, lights the house with the old kerosine lamp, does the milking in a delapidated old shed and performs the various household duties the same old labor killing way her grandmother did.

Now it is useless to blame the money-lender, the implement man, storekeeper or any other private individuals for this sad state of affairs; the real fault lies with our accursed out-of-date economic system.

The only remedy possible is to have the government attend to these things now left to private concerns, who are doing it for the sake of as much profit as possible. As long as the government invites people to go out into the wilderness, then leaves them to the tender mercies of private business dealers, we can expect nothing better than the worst kind of exploitation. And after all, under present conditions, these people are benefactors to the people in a certain sense. For in spite of the high prices and frightful interests charged, what would the people do when money and credit is needed if these people would refuse to give it.

To expect the government composed of either wing of the old political parties, should change the economic system to fit the needs of the farmers is absurd. As either side of the old parties are controlled by the class who wax fat from profiteering on the farmer it could not be expected they would inaugurate any reform that would injure their own interest. No, we must tackle these evils ourselves and have our own organization composed of those who have nothing to gain from the present individual system.

And right here is where the farm women, who now have the vote, as far as Alberta is concerned, can use that vote and help to emancipate themselves. When the men and women on the farms refuses to be divided up on election day and stand and vote together they can capture the government and as soon as they control that, it is up to them to see that no settlers are sent into the hinterland unless the settlement be followed up by railways, roads built and rivers bridged over. Hospitals and doctors must be within reach of every one, and no women or child should be allowed to die because they can't afford a doctor. Government loans at low interest and long terms should be given to those who need it, in place of the present 4 months banking loans at high interest which always keep the borrower in hot water.

In short, *Women on the Prairie*, use your vote where it will do the most good, and if the men have acted foolishly and thrown away their chances in the past there is no good reason why you should do likewise.

—JOHN GLAMBECK.

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## Organizing for Victory!

Results of the Elections and "The Fighting Programme of the League."

By C. W. McDonnell of North Dakota



One of the most encouraging features of the past elections is the fact that the Non-Partisan League has demonstrated that farmers and workingmen can get together on a political and economic programme, and also can and will stand together in an election, voting together as a unit for that programme. In Minnesota the League elected candidates in some thirty counties for State, Senate and House of Representatives while organized labor in the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis elected sixteen legislators pledged to the League labor, political and economic programme. This farmer-labor group has displaced the Democratic party as the chief opposition, and will hold the balance of power in the Minnesota Legislature, and will be able to force a large part of the progressive programme.

Wherever the common people have organized their attitude on local and national matters is found to be in substantial agreement with that of the League farmers. But the unorganized masses have no means of expressing themselves. They are speechless because the press and politicians do not represent them and they must remain without hope of relief from bad conditions until they have organized as the League farmers are doing. But it is significant that in every state where the League farmers are organizing they have met with an hearty response from organized labor and who are just as anxious for the first real chance to come to escape from its bondage to the vested interests and the "cat's paw" politicians.

They are agreed that special privilege must go and that the people must send men of their own kind to law-making bodies and state office, and that public ownership of the means of transportation and the basic national resources is indispensable in eliminating that special privilege.

It should be remembered that the gains made by the League have been made in the face of persecution and discrimination of the vilest sort. Outside of North Dakota in many instances the whole machinery of the states dominated by the interests was used to hold up organization work by action of county councils working under the state administration. They feared the growing power of the League would upset the Republican control of the State. In several counties in Minnesota, League organizers were prohibited altogether, while in twenty other counties organization work was made impossible by the activity of mobs organized by the League opponents and which beat up and deported the organizers and even prominent League members. Where meetings were not oppressed by pretended authority of local or state officials they were made impossible by wide spread mob outrages. If the League has been able to make good progress in these States under such conditions as have existed the prospects of complete victory in 1920 are particularly encouraging.

I stated I would give the programme adopted by the delegates of the convention at St. Paul. The resolutions deal with matters of national import and probably crystallize the sentiment and voice the ideas not only of League members but of the great majority of the people of the United States. The following is the text of what the delegates entitled "The Fighting Program of the Non-Partisan League" in full, including the preamble to the definite programme:-

### Preamble

The soldiers and sailors in the world war just closing have paid with the offering of their lives for a lasting peace under a world democracy.

Without their sacrifices the utter ruin of the properties, the industries and the civilization of the world must have been inevitable. For the defense and preservation of these, they have paid the highest price; and hence, our claim for their full participation in the government, for equal industrial and educational opportunities, for free access to the natural resources, for protection against industrial oppression and monopolistic extortion, must be made a claim prior to every other possible claim on the properties, on the industries, and on the civil powers of the nation.

The privations and the services of the women who took the places of the absent men in the shops and on the farms; the toilers either too young or too old for the tasks undertaken by them; the families suffering from lack of income, the little children for the lack of care; the lowered standards of living because of ruthless profiteering involving higher costs for the means of life—all these show instances of heroism not excelled even by our sons and brothers in the trenches of Europe.

The soldiers and sailors fought for political and industrial democracy away from home, and their families toiled and sacrificed for the same cause at home, not that they themselves might possess its benefits to the exclusion of any others; but in order that equality of rights and opportunities between the nations and within the nations, might be established.

Personal oppression, monopolistic extortion, special privilege granted to one and special disadvantages enforced upon others, are the fruitful causes of disorders within the nations and of war between nations.

The only excuse for secret diplomacy is the purpose to establish or to maintain in secret that which would not be permitted were it known. Secret diplomacy has been the means by which international wrongs have been perpetrated and international wars made inevitable.

The National Committee of the National Non-Partisan League, in annual meeting assembled, therefore pledge their support to the following

1. A peace programme must be adopted which will make an end of war by creating a world democracy, not by substituting one despotism or another. A United States of the World, by consent and not by conquest.

2. A reconstruction programme must be adopted which will provide employment for all, reduce the cost of living, maintain earnings of labor and of primary producers, make an end of monopoly extortion, and redeem the state and national government from the autocratic control of monopolies, and in this way make this nation safe for democracy.

3. The termination of the present national control of railways, and all other public utilities and industries as war measures, not by returning the properties to private

monopolies, but by National Ownership, which shall be extended to include all means of transportation and communication and all other undertakings which in their nature must be either great private monopolies or public enterprises.

4. Employment for the unemployed in co-operation with organized labor through government works in such enterprises as road building; forestry and timber and fuel production; flood protection, and land reclamation. The national improvement, with buildings, stock and machinery, of reclaimed or purchased lands, to be sold as going concerns, on long-time amortized payments, to returning soldiers and to others able to make small initial payments. All such undertakings to be provided with free schools for vocational training.

5. The complete enfranchisement of women, with equal opportunities with men, with equal pay for equal services.

6. The national government should make loans to the state governments on state bonds, secured by first mortgages upon real estate in order that farmers can get loans from the state at cost, and also upon the real and personal property of state-owned utilities, enterprises or industries, in amounts not to exceed one-half of their real value.

7. The immediate reduction of freight and passenger rates, especially on food and fuel.

8. The immediate abandonment of all interference with the political rights of employees in the public service, or the exercise of any further post office censorship.

### War to be paid for by Incomes and Estates

9. The national debt created by the war should be liquidated and to that end there should be an income and inheritance tax, graduated upward from \$5,000 until all incomes above \$100,000 per annum, and all inheritances above that amount, shall be apportioned for that purpose until the debt is paid, and all incomes not accounted for, and all income-producing properties, securities and inheritances not listed for this purpose shall be forfeited to the government.

10. The rights of labor surrendered for patriotic reasons must be restored, and laws limiting civil rights of the people as war measures must be repealed.

11. The use of the mails, telegraphs, telephones, express companies and banks shall be denied for making sales of goods, properties, investments or securities, except for direct delivery by the owner or his authorized agent, and then of the specific goods, properties, investments or securities involved, in order to eliminate gambling and speculation in necessities of life.

These resolutions set up a standard to which those of a progressive mind and who are looking for real reform can rally.

They follow the expression of other organized farmers and workers in the States, in Canada, in Australia and in Britain.

There is hope in them that the better day for toilers in field and factory is drawing nigh. The resolutions are an entering wedge against the rule of our plutocrats and which casts a shadow over our own people and the hopes of democrats everywhere.

C. W. McDONNELL

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## Do Elections Concern Women?

### FATHER AND MILLIE

By Jean Stevenson, Craigmyle, Alta.

"Are you going to the election tomorrow?" asked Mrs. Clark of her friend, Mrs. Baker.

"Going to the election?" laughingly echoed Mrs. Baker. "No, indeed; let the men attend to the like of that. I'm much too busy to waste my time gadding around to elections with Christmas so near. I don't know anything about public affairs anyway and what is more, I'm not in the least interested in them. Let men and women each attend to their own affairs and not meddle with the other's. The laws that suit Joe will suit me too, so why should I bother myself going to vote?"

"You are mistaken there," said Mrs. Clark. "Laws that suit men are frequently very unfair to women."

"Oh, maybe if you hunt around until you find some woman who is always quarreling with her husband and wanting to leave him, but let me tell you that I haven't any patience with that sort."

"I have heard it said a score of times," said Mrs. Clark, "That the worst enemy to the progress of woman, is the happily married woman. She is well cared for, comfortable and happy and she is too selfish to realize that there are millions of women in the world, who are neglected, down-trodden and defrauded."

"Well, all I have to say about it, Mrs. Clark, is: that it is their own fault. Why don't they assert themselves? I tell you that if Joe tried to use me like that, I would soon put him in his own place."

"Maybe you would and maybe you wouldn't, but all women haven't got your strong will and independent spirit. Many a meek, gentle woman is no more able to assert herself, against a selfish, domineering man, than you are to change the location of that hill."

"Let me tell you an incident which occurred in the Province of Quebec. Thanks to the unceasing efforts of large-hearted, public-spirited women it cannot now happen in our own province, but it will serve to illustrate what I have been trying to tell you.

"In order that you will understand me better let me say that in Quebec a married woman cannot hold property in her own name unless she has had a marriage contract made before she is married; which is very rarely done.

"I lived there until several years ago and one day a school mate who had left the country long before called upon me. Her mother was dead but she had returned to visit her father; an egotistical, domineer-

ing little man who had chosen a quiet, timid woman named Millie Meeker for his second wife.

"It makes my blood boil" said my friend "to see how selfishly father treats poor Millie. She gets up at five in the morning, brings the cows home from the pasture, milks them, separates the milk and feeds the calves, pigs and chickens. Then she comes into the house, starts the fire, cooks the breakfast and when it is ready she goes upstairs and wakes father. While he is washing and dressing for breakfast, Millie has time to say her prayers.

"After breakfast is over she washes the dishes, sweeps, dusts and prepares the vegetables to cook for dinner, while father is busy harnessing the horses. Sometimes he has them ready for work before she has her duties completed, and then he will begin howling for her to hurry; scolding because she is so slow, so she will drop her paring knife and rush off with him to the hay field. He mows and she rakes until about eleven o'clock, when they both come in. Father ties the horses in the barn and then lies down on the couch with his newspaper until Millie has the dinner ready.

"After dinner he has his smoke and his nap, while she is clearing up the table, when out they go again. He throws the hay into the wagon and she builds the loads and drives them to the barn where she throws the hay off while he stows it in the mow. At five they come in, and after supper father again seeks the couch with newspaper and pipe, while Millie repeats the chores of the morning.

"One night when everything was done up, she sank into a chair with a moan saying that she was sore from head to foot with fatigue. Father removed his pipe from his mouth long enough to remark, 'Millie, if you had to work real hard like we men; you would have something to complain about!'

"Although I had a mere acquaintance ship with my friend's father and stepmother, her recital of Millie's wrongs gave me an interest in their career. Her two unmarried brothers had inherited her paternal home, but first one and then the other fell ill and died with a lingering disease. Millie nursed them both faithfully through their long illnesses, and when at last, Tom, the youngest, was laid to rest in the neglected cemetery, the old homestead should have been hers, but of course 'Father' claimed it, as a married woman in Quebec cannot hold property in her own name. 'Father' was many years her senior, and when he felt that his end was near, he willed his own property and hers to his favorite nephew, merely stipulating that Millie was to have her keep.

"Now, Mrs. Baker, you love your home; you have done your share to improve and beautify it; you know every knoll, hollow and cattle path, every stick and stone in the buildings is dear to you, but when you are far past your prime, how would you like to have it given away to a stranger who was to give you your 'keep'?"

"How would it affect you to see a strange couple with family of rude children legally take possession of your pretty home, who would look upon you as an interloper and grudge every bite you ate; what comfort could you have if you were obliged to share your room with a couple of noisy, untidy girls, who had no hesitation in telling 'ou that they would be glad when you w<sup>re</sup> dead and out of their way; how would you like to have to plead for every stitch of clothing that you wore and when you were ill and asked for medical aid, to be roughly told that you were not worth your company?"

"This is all very harrowing, Mrs. Clark, but such a thing couldn't happen in our province."

"No, Mrs. Baker; as I said before, thanks to the efforts of large-hearted, public-spirited women, who might have sat at home comfortably crocheting Christmas presents, but who have employed their time, strength and abilities in educating public opinion which has resulted in somewhat more equitable laws. But there still remains much to be done, and it's up to you and I to do what we can to help."

"That we know nothing of public affairs is a shame to us and no excuse for inactivity. The vote, that mighty weapon for good or evil, has been put into our hands and henceforth if the laws are unfair, the responsibility rests upon us to the same degree and to the same extent, that it does upon the men."

—JEAN STEVENSON.

## Have You Noticed

In the daily papers, the great number of advertisements for stenographers and book-keepers? This is only the beginning. Reorganization times are coming, and clerks of all kinds will be needed. You cannot afford to wait. Let your resolve be:

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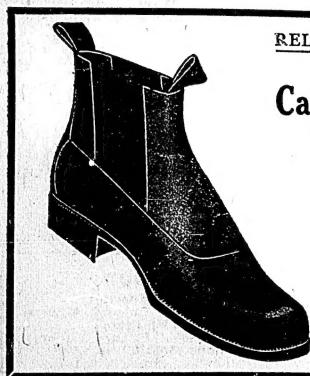
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**NO LONG LIFE FOR THE  
COALITION**

The election was rushed quite frankly because Mr. George and his Allies knew they could sweep the country as they might not be able to do later. No one seriously supposes the Government, however successful at the polls, will last long? Once the overwhelming necessity of settling with Germany is removed, how are the Liberal and Tory temperaments to work in harmony when confronted with questions involving liberty, taxation, the distribution of wealth, the control of industry? Apart from the difficulty of framing necessary legislation, it is certain that cessation of war-work will lead to widespread Labor unrest, and unless the Government is ready to tide over the difficulties, class after class will become all the more bitter against it because of having been stamped into voting for it. We cannot foresee a long life for the coalition.

—The New Statesman.

\* \* \*

Manufacturers' Associations and Political Parties long ago recognized the value of the Press—You too, Mr. Farmer, must recognize its possibilities.

\* \* \*

We have received a letter from Mr. A. R. Dewey just as we go to press. The error pointed out is important and shall receive attention in our next issue.

An article from Alex. Ross, M.L.A., on the Alberta labor convention has gone astray in the mails. We hope to produce same in our next issue.

Look for "The Perils of Peace" in our next issue by Guy Johnson, Pres. Vulcan U. F. A.

Also "Non-Partisan Jolts," by Hec, crowded out in this issue.



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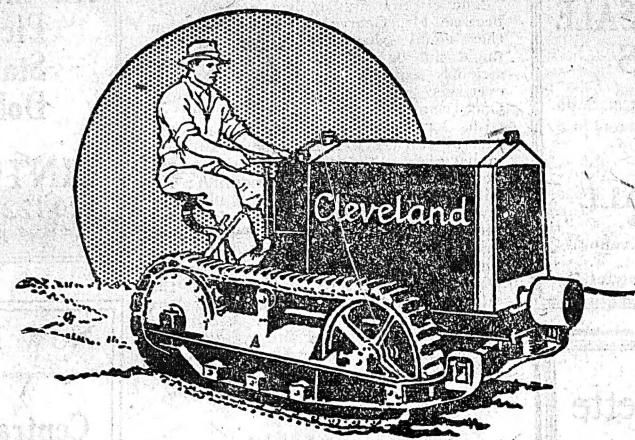
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